

FACULTY RECITAL

KAREN RITSCHER, viola

THOMAS JABER, piano

Monday, February 7, 2000

8:00 p.m.

Lillian H. Duncan Recital Hall

RICE UNIVERSITY

the
Shepherd
School
of Music

PROGRAM

Fantasie for Viola and Piano

*Andante grave – Andante con moto –
Allegro non troppo*

Johann Nepomuk Hummel

(1778-1837)

Sonata for Viola and Piano, Op. 147

*Moderato
Allegretto
Adagio*

Dmitri Shostakovich

(1906-1975)

INTERMISSION

Suite Populaire Espagnole

*El paño moruno
Nana
Canción
Jota
Asturiana
Polo*

Manuel de Falla

(1876-1946)

***Sonata for Viola and Piano
in F minor, Op. 120 No. 1***

*Allegro appassionato
Andante un poco Adagio
Allegretto grazioso
Vivace*

Johannes Brahms

(1833-1897)

BIOGRAPHIES

KAREN RITSCHER is recognized internationally as a leading pedagogue and performer. A champion of contemporary music for the viola, she has commissioned and premiered numerous solo and chamber works. Ms. Ritscher has appeared as a soloist with the Dallas Chamber Orchestra, the Westchester Symphony, and the Colonial Symphony. She has been principal violist of the Dallas Opera Orchestra, assistant principal of the American Composers Orchestra, and has toured and recorded with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra.

Previously on the faculties of the Eastman School and the Oberlin Conservatory, Ms. Ritscher has given master classes throughout the U.S. as well as in Korea and Taiwan, and has been in residence at the Texas, Bowdoin, and Aspen Music Festivals, as well as the Musicorda Music School. She currently teaches at Mannes College of Music, the Manhattan School of Music, and The Shepherd School of Music.

THOMAS JABER is Director of Choral Activities and Associate Professor of Vocal Coaching at The Shepherd School of Music. In addition to the responsibilities of coaching graduate students and senior voice majors, Mr. Jaber teaches choral conducting and conducts three ensembles: Rice Chorale, Shepherd Singers, and Sallyport. These groups have been heard nationwide on both National Public Radio and the CBS Radio Network. Before moving to Houston in 1988, Mr. Jaber was Music Director of the Opera Theatre of Temple University in Philadelphia. He earned degrees with honors in piano from Arkansas State University and Indiana University, and was granted the Performer's Certificate in Accompanying from the Curtis Institute of Music, where he was a member of the faculty from 1976-1988. Mr. Jaber worked as a vocal coach and conductor at Philadelphia's Academy of Vocal Arts from 1977-1986. He was also chosen as vocal coach for the Opera Company of Philadelphia/Luciano Pavarotti International Competition.

As a keyboard artist, Mr. Jaber is the continuo organist on three recordings of cantatas by J.S. Bach with Helmuth Rilling, has performed as solo organ recitalist in Jerusalem's Church of the Redeemer and with the Concerto Soloists Ensemble of Philadelphia, and for twelve seasons was the Principal Accompanist at the Fred Waring Summer Music Workshops. As a pianist, he has appeared with many artists, including Katherine Ciesinski, Suzanne Mentzer, and Stephen Varcoe, in performances for the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Dallas Opera Guild, Da Camera of Houston, and the Houston Symphony Chamber Players. From 1978-1988, Mr. Jaber was the Organist/Choirmaster of The First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, where he conducted a professional chorus of twenty singers and was heard regularly in recital on the Alexander McCurdy Memorial Organ. He is currently the Organist at Chapelwood United Methodist Church in Houston.